

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, a method for operating a subscriber unit, said method comprising:

transmitting data to a central access point during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit;

monitoring MAP messages broadcast by said central access point to detect acknowledgment of receipt of said data transmitted during said directed grant slot; and

if no acknowledgment of receipt of said data transmitted during said directed grant slot is indicated by said MAP messages, retransmitting said data.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein non-receipt is indicated by said MAP messages if a MAP message is received with a timestamp later than said directed grant slot and no acknowledgment is received.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising:
after transmitting said data to said central access point during said directed grant slot, storing said data in an ARQ buffer for possible retransmission.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein storing said data comprises storing said data only if communication of said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 5 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, a method for operating a central access point, said method comprising:

receiving data from a subscriber unit during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit; and

broadcasting a MAP message including an acknowledgment of receipt of said data received during said directed grant slot.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said acknowledgment is included only if said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5 further comprising:
prior to said directed grant slot, broadcasting another MAP message allocating said directed grant slot to said subscriber unit.

Claim 8 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, apparatus for operating a subscriber unit, said apparatus comprising:

a MAC layer processor that transmits data to a central access point during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit and monitors MAP messages broadcast by said central access point to detect acknowledgment of receipt of said data transmitted during said directed grant slot; and

an ARQ buffer that stores said data transmitted during said directed grant slot after it is transmitted; and

wherein if no acknowledgment of receipt is indicated by said MAP messages, said MAC layer processor retrieves said data from said ARQ buffer and retransmits said data.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein non-receipt is indicated by said MAP messages if a MAP message is received with a timestamp later than said directed grant slot and no acknowledgment is received.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said ARQ buffer stores said data only if communication of said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 11 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, apparatus for operating a central access point, said apparatus comprising:

a physical layer transceiver that exchanges information signals with a subscriber unit via a transmission medium; and

a MAC layer processor that receives data during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit via said physical layer transceiver and that broadcasts a MAP message including an acknowledgment of receipt of said data received during said directed grant slot.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said acknowledgment is included only if said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said MAC layer processor, prior to said directed grant slot, broadcasts another MAP message allocating said directed grant slot to said subscriber unit.

Claim 14 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, apparatus for operating a subscriber unit, said apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting data to a central access point during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit;

means for monitoring MAP messages broadcast by said central access point to detect acknowledgment of receipt of said data transmitted during said directed grant slot; and

means for, if no acknowledgment of receipt is indicated by said MAP messages, retransmitting said data.

Claim 15 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, apparatus for operating a central access point, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving data from a subscriber unit during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit; and

means for broadcasting a MAP message including an acknowledgment of receipt of said data received during said directed grant slot.

Claim 16 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, a computer program product for operating a subscriber unit, said computer program product comprising:

code that causes transmission of data to a central access point during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit;

code that causes monitoring of MAP messages broadcast by said central access point to detect acknowledgment of receipt of said data transmitted during said directed grant slot;

code that causes, if no acknowledgment of receipt is indicated by said MAP messages, retransmission of said data; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the codes.

Claim 17 (original): The computer program product of claim 16 wherein non-receipt is indicated by said MAP messages if a MAP message is received with a timestamp later than said directed grant slot and no acknowledgment is received.

Claim 18 (original): The computer program product of claim 16 further comprising:

code that causes, after transmission of said data to said central access point, storing of said data in an ARQ buffer for possible retransmission.

Claim 19 (original): The computer program product of claim 18 wherein said code that causes storing of said data causes storing of said data only if communication of said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 20 (currently amended): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, a computer program product for operating a central access point, said computer program product comprising:

code that causes reception of data from a subscriber unit during a directed grant slot allocated to said subscriber unit;

code that causes broadcasting of a MAP message including an acknowledgment of receipt of said data received during said directed grant slot; and

a computer-readable storage medium that stores the codes.

Claim 21 (original): The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said acknowledgment is included only if said data is delay tolerant.

Claim 22 (original): The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:

code that, prior to said directed grant slot, causes broadcasting of another MAP message allocating said directed grant slot to said subscriber unit.

Claim 23 (new): In a point to multipoint network operating according to a DOCSIS-based MAC protocol, a method for operating a subscriber unit, said method comprising:

transmitting an access request to a central access point on a request/data slot, the access request being arranged to request access to transmit data upstream;

receiving a first MAP message in response to the access request, the first MAP message being arranged to allocate a directed grant slot to the subscriber unit, the directed grant slot being arranged such that substantially only the subscriber unit may transmit during the directed grant slot;

transmitting the data to the central access point during the directed grant slot allocated to the subscriber unit;

monitoring a plurality of MAP messages broadcast by the central access point to detect acknowledgment of receipt of the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot,

when no acknowledgment of receipt of the data transmitted during the directed grant slot is indicated by the plurality of MAP messages, retransmitting the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 23 further including:

determining when to store the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot; and

storing the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot when it is determined that the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot is to be stored, where the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot is retransmitted when the data transmitted to the central access point during the directed grant slot is stored and when there is no acknowledgement of receipt of the data transmitted during the directed grant slot.